

Message Text

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70

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-03

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SPC-03 AID-20 OPR-02 DRC-01

PM-07 H-03 L-03 SCA-01 SCSE-00 /091 W

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P 242332Z SEP 73

FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8127

UNCLAS MEXICO 7202

THE FOLLOWING TELEGRAM RECEIVED FROM MERIDA 24 SEPTEMBER IS
REPEATED TO YOU FOR YOUR INFO.

QUOTE MERIDA 155

E.O. 11652 N/A

TAGS: PINS, MX

SUBJECT: CIVIL DISTURBANCES IN MERIDA

REF: MERIDA 153

1. IN WAKE REMOVAL FROM OFFICE MERIDA'S MAYOR SEPTEMBER 20
SEVERAL MEETINGS AND DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE TAKEN PLACE IN CENTRAL
PLAZA, WHERE BOTH GOVERNOR'S PALACE AND MAYOR'S OFFICES LOCATED.
EVENING MEETINGS HAVE CONSISTENTLY DEGENERATED INTO VIOLENCE IN
FORM OF LOOTING AND VANDALISM. ALL ACTIVITY LIMITED TO CENTER
OF TOWN WITH EXCEPTION RAID ON RESIDENCE OF CHIEF OF STATE POLICE
AND REPORTED ATTEMPTED BREAK-IN OF RESTAURANT LOCATED ABOUT
THREE BLOCKS FROM CONSULATE.

2. ACCORDING NEWSPAPER REPORTS MOST DEMONSTRATIONS HAVE BEEN IN
FAVOR OF OUSTED MAYOR BUT SEVERAL GROUPS HAVE SHOWN SUPPORT FOR
THE GOVERNOR. RESIGNATION OF CHIEF OF STATE POLICE SEPTEMBER
21 APPARENTLY COMPROMISE, WHICH EASED TENSION FOR SEVERAL HOURS,
BUT NEW OUTBREAK OCCURRED EVENING SEPTEMBER 23.

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3. CITY CONTINUES TENSE MORNING OF SEPTEMBER 24 WITH RUMORS OF

MORE DEMONSTRATIONS DURING THE DAY. CITY BUSES WHICH CEASED OPERATIONS SEPTEMBER 20 BEGAN TO RUN BRIEFLY SEPTEMBER 23 BUT WERE NOT RUNNING THIS MORNING.

4. DISTURBANCES TO DATE INSPIRED BY LOCAL EVENTS AND LIMITED MANILY TO CENTER OF TOWN,ABOUT TWO MILES AWAY FROM CONSULATE. THEREFORE, FORESEE NO THREAT TO CONSULATE PROPERTY OR PERSONNEL AT PRESENT. ACKENBOM UNQUOTE
MCBRIDE

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NNN

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